

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 04253 241253Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00  
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 CU-02  
OIC-02 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 IO-13 /076 W  
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O R 241215Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1170  
INFO CSCE CONFERENCE COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 4253

FOR EUR/RPM

FROM USDEL CSCE

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: CSCE UR  
SUBJ: BELGRADE CSCE MEETING: ERRONEOUS PRESS REPORT ON SOVIET THREATS

REF: BELGRADE 4240 (NOTAL)

1. WE HAVE SEEN SEVERAL WIRE SERVICE REPORTS WHICH IN OUR VIEW SERIOUSLY MISREPRESENT TONE AND PURPOSE OF SOVIET REP'S JUNE 23 PLENARY INTERVENTION. ACCORDING TO WIRE SERVICE REPORTS, SOVIET REP IN EFFECT THREATENED TO BREAK UP CONFERENCE UNLESS SOVIETS GOT TYPE OF AGENDA THEY DESIRED. TONE OF REPORTS WAS THAT BELGRADE PREPARATORY MEETING WAS AT CRISIS JUNCTURE.

2. THIS SORT OF CRISIS WAS DIFFICULT TO PERCEIVE EVENING OF JUNE 23 AT RECEPTION HOSTED BY FINNISH AMBASSADOR. ALL DELS TOOK SOVIET INTERVENTION IN STRIDE, AND COMMON INTERPRETATION WAS THAT PROVIDED IN OUR REPORTING CABLE FOR JUNE 23, NAMELY,

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THAT SOVIETS WERE CAUTIONING ABOUT POSSIBLY SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR CSCE IF DELEGATIONS SOUGHT OVER LONG PERIOD OF TIME "FRIVOLOUSLY" TO REWRITE FINAL ACT. SOVIET REP SPOKE FAIRLY TOUGHLY IN EFFORT TO DISCOURAGE AT EARLY STAGE DEVELOPING CONSENSUS ON AN AGENDA WHICH WOULD BE DISADVANTAGOUS TO THE SOVIETS, AND HE NO DOUBT SOUGHT TO FEED CONCERN OF MORE WOBBLY NATO ALLIES AND

NEUTRALS. SOVIETS THEMSELVES SEEMED AWARE, EVENING OF JUNE 23, THAT THEIR LANGUAGE MIGHT HAVE BEEN OPEN TO SOME MISINTERPRETATION. A SOVIET DELEGATION SPOKESMAN TOLD BBC THAT THEY HAD NOT MEANT TO MAKE A THREAT IN PLENARY, AND AT FINNISH PARTY, THEY PUT LINE OUT THAT PROPOSED POLISH AMENDMENTS TO DRAFT AGENDA, WHICH CAME AFTER SOVIET INTERVENTION, WERE INDICATIVE OF CONTINUED WARSAW PACT INTEREST IN NEGOTIATION.

3. IN SHORT, WE SEE NO SIGN THAT SOVIETS ARE ABOUT TO ADOPT OLD JAKOB MALIK UN TACTICS AND STAGE A WALKOUT EITHER LITERALLY OR FIGURATIVELY. THEIR DIPLOMATIC PARADIGM FOR TIME BEING AT LEAST IS MORE V.I. MOLOTOV-- "OLD IRONPANTS".

4. WIRE SERVICES, LIKE REST OF PRESS, HAVE BEEN FRUSTRATED AT LACK OF BELGRADE DRAMA. THEY CAME EXPECTING TO REPORT CONTEXT BETWEEN EAGLE AND BEAR AND HAVE GOTTEN INSTEAD A CONTEST BETWEEN TORTOISES INTENT ON IMPORTANT BUT HARD-TO-UNDERSTAND TECHNICALITIES. THERE HAS BEEN AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE TENDENCY TO SEIZE ON ISOLATED BITS OF INFORMATION AND GIVE THEM MORE DRAMATIC INTERPRETATION THAN THEY DESERVE IN CONTEXT OF LENGTHY NEGOTIATION. USDEL WILL CONTINUE TO TRY TO KEEP MATTERS IN PERSPECTIVE IN OUR REPORTING TELEGRAMS.

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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